

Security Information

C-1036 []
19 December 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Domestic Cover for Arnold Janson (alias)

1. Arnold Janson (alias) is a Latvian, 32 years old and married, who has come to this country under a visitor's visa to stay for an indefinite time. He will reside in Washington, D.C. and work for the agency in a safe area and as a participant in a training program. Janson has a very imperfect command of the English language although he appears to understand it well. At present he speaks only German and his native Latvian. However, since he is intelligent and adaptable he can be expected to improve his English fairly rapidly. Owing to the vicissitudes of his life he has had little overt experience. He did, however, study agriculture at the University of Latvia, particularly dairy farming, and such background as he has is confined to this field of endeavor. Backstopping cover for Janson was required sufficient to explain his presence in the Washington, D.C., area and to serve as a credit reference.

2. In the light of Janson's known but limited background, it was decided to concentrate on the field of agriculture, with particular emphasis on dairy farming in view of Janson's past experience and since Latvia, before the Soviet occupation, was a prominent milk producing area, ranking third in Europe behind Denmark and Holland. The cooperation of the Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Md., field offices of Contact Division was requested in finding a suitable dairy farm in Maryland or Virginia reasonably convenient to Washington.

3. [] of the Baltimore field office of Contact Division in the course suggested [] near [] Md., [] is the ancestral home of the influential and historic (one of them signed the Declaration of Independence) [] family. It is an estate of some 1,400 acres and maintains two modern dairies with about 500 head of Guernsey cattle. The present head of the family was cleared and on 29 November 1952 [] reached by [] to explore his willingness to cooperate. [] was accompanied and introduced by [] [] [] was most courteous and cooperative but expressed a natural wish to interview Janson.

4. Accordingly on December 13, 1952, another visit was made to [] by [] accompanied this time by Janson and by his case officer, [] of SR, who acted as interpreter.

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[] was again most cooperative and showed Janson over both dairies and a large part of the estate. It was agreed that Janson would be doing research work for [] and acting in a general advisory capacity. He agreed to so inform his overseer and to instruct him to refer all correspondence and enquiries on Janson to him. The ostensible reason for this was Janson's imperfect command of English. [] incidentally, speaks excellent German and has done legal work for the Latvian Government in the past.

5. [] have agreed that this cover can be considered adequate only for a limit of six months and that during that time and as Janson's knowledge of English improves, a more permanent and satisfactory cover for him must be found.

[]

cc: RI Vital Files

[] SR ✓

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